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ESKIMO SONGS.

BY ELEANOR HAGUE.

THE following Eskimo tunes were recorded by Captain George Comer on the west coast of Hudson Bay, near Cape Fullerton. Nos. 1 and 2 are chorus songs sung by women. No. 2 probably accompanies the chant of a single singer. No. 3 is a chant sung by a single person. The cylinders from which the records were made are rather faint, and part of them were so indistinct that it was impossible to catch the tune.

I. ESKIMO SONG.¹

Introd. *Chant.*

Refrain.

Chant.

Refrain.

Chant.

Refrain.

wa wa wa wa

a wa

A wa wa wa wa

p

¹ Actual pitch. The ♭ sign placed above a note means that it should be sung a little below pitch.

Chant.

The song consists of five repetitions of a chant, which is irregular in rhythmic structure, probably in accordance with the words. Preceding the chant are two introductory notes. The first four lines are each followed by a refrain, which consists of two parts. Its rhythm is fairly well fixed, and it seems plausible that the irregularities may be due to imperfections of singing. The close of the whole song consists of a repetition of the first part of the refrain, which terminates with a long-drawn-out note in place of the modulations found in the preceding lines.

2. FRAGMENTS OF ESKIMO SONG.¹

Moderately increasing the speed with the successive repetitions.

Between these two phrases are passages of indefinite rhythm, but on one note, B.

¹ Actual pitch.

3. FRAGMENT OF ESKIMO CHANT.¹

A musical score for an Eskimo chant, consisting of nine staves of music in a single system. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ah ay yah ay yah' followed by 'O - vo ga lay,'. The second staff continues with 'A - vo - ga lay' and 'ay'. The third staff has 'yah ya ya 'ya ya ya ya yay ay yah'. The fourth staff has 'O - bo - ga lay' and 'ah - lo - ah - lo - e - lo'. The fifth staff has 'Ay'. The sixth staff has 'yah yah yah yah yah yay yah yah yah yah yah.' The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests, with some notes marked with an 'x'.

Ah ay yah ay yah O - vo ga lay,

A - vo - ga lay ay

yah ya ya 'ya ya ya ya yay ay yah

O - bo - ga lay ah - lo - ah - lo - e - lo

Ay

yah yah yah yah yah yay yah yah yah yah yah.

NEW YORK.

¹ Actual pitch. The first part of the cylinder was too faint to catch.